

Listing of Claims:

1. (Withdrawn) A method of diagnosing the presence or absence of cancer in a human patient comprising the steps of:

- a) examining patient tissue for the CRD-BP expression level; and
- b) comparing the result of step (a) with the expression level in non-cancerous tissue from the same source, wherein an increased CRD-BP level in the patient tissue compared to the non-cancerous tissue is diagnostic of cancer.

2. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein the detection of CRD-BP comprises the step of homogenizing biopsy tissue and obtaining a crude protein extract and examining that extract for the CRD-BP level.

3. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 2 wherein the detection is via a two antibody sandwich assay.

4. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 2 wherein the detection is via antigen competition assay.

5. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 3 wherein the detection is via antibody capture assay.

6. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 2 wherein the detection of CRD-BP is via immunoblotting.

7. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein the detection of CRD-BP takes place in cells via immunological or *in situ* hybridization methods.

8. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein the cancer is selected from the group consisting of breast cancer, colon cancer and pancreatic cancer.

9. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein the patient tissue is breast tissue.

10. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 9 wherein the non-cancerous tissue is breast tissue.

11. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein the patient tissue is colon tissue.

12. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 11 wherein the non-cancerous tissue is colon tissue.

13. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein the tissue is pancreatic tissue.

14. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 13 wherein the non-cancerous tissue is pancreatic tissue.

15. (Withdrawn) A method of determining the stage of cancer in a human patient comprising the step of:

- a) examining patient tissues for the CRD-BP expression levels, and

- b) correlating that expression level with disease prognosis.

16. (Original) A method of determining the presence or absence of anti-CRD-BP antibody in a patient's serum comprising the step of:

- a) exposing a patient's serum to CRD-BP and determining whether an anti-CRD-BP antibody is present.

17. (Withdrawn) A method of determining the presence or absence of CRD-BP itself in a patient's serum comprising the step of:

- a) exposing a patient's serum to CRD-BP antibody and determining whether the CRD-BP is present.

18. (Withdrawn) A method of inhibiting cancer cell growth comprising the step of eliminating or lowering the level of CRD-BP in the cancerous cells.

19. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18 wherein ability of the CRD-BP to protect *c-myc* mRNA from rapid destruction is by providing the cell with a competitor RNA.

20. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18 wherein the ability of the CRD-BP to protect *c-myc* mRNA from rapid destruction is reduced or eliminated via the use of an inhibitor that blocks CRD-BP binding to the *c-myc* mRNA CRD.

21. (Previously Added) The method of claim 16 wherein the CRD-BP is recombinant.

22. (Amended) The method of claim 16 wherein the amount of anti-CRD-BP antibody is quantitated.

23. (Amended) The method of claim 16 additionally comprising the step of correlating anti-CRD-BP antibody presence with cancer diagnosis.

24. (Previously Added) The method of claim 16 wherein the CRD-BP is bound to a solid support.

25. (Previously Added) The method of claim 24 wherein the CRD-BP is exposed to serum and anti-CRD-BP antibody in the serum binds to the CRD-BP.

26. (Previously Added) The method of claim 16 wherein serum is attached to a solid support.

27. (Previously Added) The method of claim 26 wherein the CRD-BP is radiolabeled and exposed to the serum, wherein the amount of radiolabeled CRD-BP bound to the solid support is measured.